Applicant : Robert J. Chansler   Attorney's Docket No.: 07844-280001 / P254
Serial No. : 09/467,310
Filed   : December 17, 1999
Page   : 4 of 15

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously Presented) A method of defining a user interface for a computer program, comprising:

after execution of the computer program has begun, defining a user interface of the program by:

reading a function description of a first function to be provided by the user interface, the function description including logic for selecting an appearance of the user interface, the function description comprising instructions for handling user interface events;

executing logic included in the function description to select an appearance description of a first appearance to be presented by the user interface;

associating the function description and the appearance description on the fly at run time into an executable form; and

executing the executable form of the user interface to generate the user interface with the associated function description and appearance description.

2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising replacing the function description during program execution while providing a continuity of presentation

3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising replacing the appearance description during program execution to present logic of the user interface with a different appearance.

Applicant : Robert J. Chansler
Serial No. : 09/467,310
Filed : December 17, 1999
Page : 5 of 15

Attorney's Docket No.: 07844-280001 / P254

4. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

reading a map defining multiple functions to be provided by the user interface including the first function;

reading a fashion defining all appearances to be presented by the user interface including the first appearance;

associating the map and the fashion on the fly at run time; and

executing the user interface with the associated map and fashion.

5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 4, further comprising replacing the map during program execution.

6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 4, further comprising replacing the fashion during program execution.

7. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 4, wherein the map specifies that a subordinate part of the user interface is specified by a second map-fashion pair.

8. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 4, further comprising receiving events from one of the map and the fashion.

9. (Original) The method of claim 8, further comprising executing business logic associated with the respective component

10. (Canceled)

11. (Currently Amended) A method of defining a user interface for a computer program, comprising:

selecting at least one of a map component and a fashion component according to an environment variable on the fly at run time;

associating the [[a]] map component and the [[a]] fashion component on the fly at run time to generate the user interface, the map component including logic for changing one of the map component and the fashion component, the map component including instructions for handling and processing interface objects and events;

combining the map component and the fashion component into an executable form; and

executing the user interface with the associated map component and fashion component.

12. (Original) The method of claim 11, further comprising loading a resource bundle associated with the map component.

13. (Original) The method of claim 12, further comprising locating sub-components of the user interface.

14. (Original) The method of claim 12, further comprising instantiating one or more sub-components of the user interface.

15. (Original) The method of claim 12, further comprising calling the fashion component to allocate a resource to each sub-component.

16. (Original) The method of claim 15, further comprising instructing each sub-component to present itself in the user-interface.

17. (Original) The method of claim 11, further comprising receiving events from the map component.

18. (Original) The method of claim 11, further comprising receiving events from the fashion component.

19. (Original) The method of claim 11, further comprising executing business logic associated with the map component.

20. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 11, wherein the map and fashion components are stored in a database.

21. (Previously Presented) Computer-readable medium to define a user interface for a computer program after execution of the computer program has begun, comprising instructions to:

read a function description of a first function to be provided by the user interface, the function description including logic for selecting an appearance of the user interface;

execute the logic included in the function description to select an appearance description of a first appearance to be presented by the user interface;

associate the function description and the appearance description on the fly at run time; and

execute the user interface with the associated function and appearance.

22. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable medium of claim 21, further comprising instructions to replace the function description during program execution while providing a continuity of presentation.

23. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable medium of claim 21, further comprising instructions to replace the appearance description during program execution to present logic of the user interface with a different appearance.

24. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 21, further comprising instructions to:

read a map defining multiple functions to be provided by the user interface including the first function;

read a fashion defining all appearances to be presented by the user interface including the first appearance;

associate the map and the fashion on the fly at run time; and

executing the user interface with the associated map and fashion.

25. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 24, further comprising instructions to replace the map during program execution.

26. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 24, further comprising instructions to replace the fashion during program execution.

27. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 24, wherein the map specifies that a subordinate part of the user interface is specified by a second map-fashion pair.

28. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 24, further comprising instructions to receive events from one of the map and the fashion.

29. (Original) The computer-readable medium of claim 28, further comprising instructions to execute business logic associated with the respective component.

30. (Canceled)

31. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium of defining a user interface for a computer program, comprising instructions to:

select at least one of a map component and a fashion component according to an environment variable on the fly at run time;

associate the [[a]] map component and the [[a]] fashion component on the fly at run time to generate the user interface, the map component including logic for changing one of the map component and the fashion component; and

execute the user interface with the associated map component and fashion component.

32. (Currently Amended) A system to define a user interface for a computer program, comprising:

a processor;

a device coupled to the processor to present the user interface;

means for associating the [[a]] map component and the [[a]] fashion component on the fly at run time to generate the user interface, the map component including logic for changing one of the map component and the fashion component; and

means for executing the user interface with the associated map component and fashion component; and

means for changing the fashion component to present logic of the user interface with a different appearance during program execution.

33. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 32, wherein the device is a display or a sound input-output device.

34. (Canceled)

35. (Original) The system of claim 32, wherein the device is a telephone.

Applicant : Robert J. Chansler   Attorney's Docket No.: 07844-280001 / P254
Serial No. : 09/467,310
Filed   : December 17, 1999
Page   : 10 of 15

36. (New) The system of claim 32, further comprising means for changing the map component while providing a continuity of presentation during program execution using the fashion component.

37. (New) The method of claim 1, further comprising customizing a selection base of function descriptions and appearance descriptions based on a geographic location of a user.

38. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein a selection of at least one of the function description and the appearance description is made according to an environment variable.